





# THE BRITISH COLONIST

Friday Morning, May 20, 1864.

To Advertisers & the Public.

**THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST**, published every morning (Sundays excepted), is the largest and best weekly illustrated paper in the colony. It contains a full and complete record of all the news of the day, and is a most valuable and interesting paper to the public.

Resident Subscribers may have the same left at their residence at 25 cents per week, by forwarding their address at the Office of Publication.

**THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST**, published every Tuesday, will be mailed or left at the residence of S. B. Stewart, ready for mailing, at 25 cents per week, payable to the carrier.

**JOB PRINTING.**

**THE BRITISH COLONIST** has received a large and complete stock of new and beautiful printing type, which will be executed at a low price, and with the greatest dispatch, at a right advance on San Francisco prices.

**COLONIAL STATISTICS.**

Above all the drawbacks which a Governor is likely to experience on taking charge of the administration of affairs on Vancouver Island, the total absence of statistics is probably the greatest. We cannot, of course, expect so young a colony to have its affairs arranged in that systematic order which is perceptible in England and in the European countries generally; but we have a right to demand that our legislation shall not be merely experimental—that the government of the colony shall be based on facts—tangible and indisputable facts—upon which the law-maker can at once lay his hand. At present there is scarcely a single subject which comes up for legislation that is thoroughly weighed or understood in its bearings on the inhabitants. When taxation becomes the matter of debate, we have no member putting down the total inhabitants of the Island at 5000 and another at 10,000, just as the figure may suit the gentleman's arguments of fancy; and again we have the available agricultural land stated by one member to be almost illimitable and by another to be but a few thousand acres. Our imports and exports—things which our Legislature never touches upon—are probably the only subjects of importance with which the Government is thoroughly acquainted. The industrial resources of the country—the real elements of our future prosperity—are never thought of. The first move has yet to be made to acquire a knowledge of the number of actual settlers, the amount of land under cultivation, and the description of the crops. Then we have the lumbering, the boat building, the fishing, and the coal mining interests, about which there is not a single official record.

We cannot wonder that in this blissful but unprofitable state of ignorance, there is a most reckless determination to carry out experiment, in the absence of proper data. It is not surprising that we have had governmental action sometimes based on a population of 100,000 instead of about 6,000 taxable souls—that we have a staff of officials numerically sufficient to carry on the work of a colony ten times our size—and that a scheme should be proposed for improving our harbor, that could certainly not be borne by a population less than that number. We have no authentic or reliable means of judging of the progression of the colony—either in population or in wealth. We cannot tell the yearly number of our immigrants, nor approximate the sum total of those who leave our shores. There is no register to point periodically to the reproductive character of our inhabitants—to the number of those who enter the marriage state and become literally "settled"—or to those who depart for "the home from whence no traveller returns."

In the chaotic state of the first few years of Vancouver Island's colonial existence—in the confusion and unsettlement of '59 '60 and '61—there was a legitimate excuse for inaction in this matter of statistics. Happily, however, we have now become more of a permanent population. Interests have arisen and grown up amongst us that promise to become the mainstay of the country's existence. Our buildings, as well as our occupations, now indicate a stability to which they had no pretension a few years ago. Everything, in fact, is assuming an air of substance and regularity that leaves no further excuse for remaining in ignorance of our actual condition. The expense attendant on the compilation of official statistics on the important subjects mentioned would be trifling in comparison to the satisfaction of the results. One of the officials might be appointed, at a very slight increase of salary, Registrar of births, deaths and marriages. The taking of the census, which we hope to see done before the expiration of the present year, will also be a matter of trivial expenditure, and might be done a-broad, as far as Victoria is concerned, by the police. The other statistical information connected with our resources is of too great importance to be treated with any further neglect, and we therefore hope to see His Excellency and the Government generally treating the matter with that consideration which it demands.

**NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.**

**TO LET.**

**A TWO-STORY HOUSE WITH** seven rooms, bath, range, and all the latest and best appointments, situated in a healthy and airy locality, and well adapted for a family or for a small business. Apply to J. H. JOHNSON, next door, or J. J. COCHRAN, Esq., Government street.

**Wanted.**

**A THOROUGHLY COMPETENT** man as Foreman in a Copper Mine. Also, three Miners.

Apply immediately at this office. m211

**WHO'S YOUR BREWER?**

**BUNSTER!**

**NOTICE.**

**THE BUSINESS CARRIED ON BY** Stewart & Co. in Wharf street, as General Merchants and Commission Agents, will be carried on by J. H. JOHNSON, Esq., as Agent for Lawrence, Clark & Joyce, London. Stewart & Co. are requested to be sent in immediately for settlement. Victoria, 19th May, 1864. m210

**Queen Insurance Company,**

Capital, £1,000,000, Sterling.

**THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE BEEN** appointed Agents for the above Company, and are prepared to issue policies.

**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY RACES.**

May 24th & 25th inst.

**Two STANDS FOR REPRESENTATION** will be sold by Public Auction at the St. Nicholas Saloon, on Friday evening next, at half-past eight o'clock.

By Order of the COMMITTEE.

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**Auction.**

**TO-MORROW,**

**Saturday, 21st Inst.,**

**DANIEL SCOTT & CO**

**WILL SELL,**

**AT THE CITY AUCTION ROOMS,**

**FORT STREET, NEAR WHARF**

**On To-morrow (Saturday), the 21st Instant,**

**AT COMMENCEMENT OF SALE:**

**One Superior Horse and Dray;**

**By Instructions of J. D. PEMBERTON,**

**Esq., several Lots of Tools, Spades, Shovels, &c., &c.,**

**ALSO—About 300 yards Second Hand Co-**

**coa Nut Matting,**

**Afterwards in Store—a big Costa Rica Coffee,**

**7 qr chests Japanese Tea,**

**Casks Bottled Ale,**

**1 qr cask Bernard's Brandy,**

**1 " Cognac,**

**15 cases Pale Sherry,**

**15 cases Bell Gin,**

**10 " Champagne Cider,**

**7 crates Assorted White Granite Ware, &c., &c.**

**The Royal**

**INSURANCE COMPANY.**

**FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE.**

**CAPITAL, - Ten Million Dollars**

**HEAD OFFICES, Liverpool and London.**

**Chairman—CHARLES TURNER, Esq., M.P.,**

**Deputy Chairman—RALPH JONES, Esq.,**

**Manager and Secretary—FRED M. DOWE, Esq.**

**THE DIRECTORS HAVE APPOINTED**

**the undersigned their Agents for Vancouver Island and British Columbia, and will not accept**

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